

OCT 04 2007

LSU SHREVEPORT

Thursday  
4 October 2007



# the ALMAGEST

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## Surviving With Strength

*A First Hand View of a Family's Survival of Breast Cancer*

Jordan Ford

This is a story about my family's fight to help and support my mother, a breast cancer survivor. This month, since 1985, October has represented Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Across the country, people commemorate this month in honor of those who have been touched by this deadly disease. Women, men, and children across the country are putting on pink ribbons to become warriors.

This warrior is Theresa Ford, my mother, who has made it her mission to inspire people around the country to stand up and fight back.

In my eyes she is a pillar of strength that has had the determination, despite her illness, to raise me and my

Cont. pg 4

## TEMPORARILY RELIEVE HIGH MONTHLY STUDENT LOANS

Sherita Holden

Say "goodbye" to high monthly payments on your student loans. Take advantage of a new law that lowers current interest rates. On January 17, 2007, the House of Representatives passed a bill that lowers interest rates on certain student loans down to 3.4 percent by July 2011. This is a 50% drop from the current rate.

Changes are grandfathered from July 2007 and reduce interest rates in stages of twelve month increments. Starting at an automatic decline to 6.12 percent and falling respectively by .68 percent until the final stage in the July 2011 period. Beginning January 2012, the rate reverts back to 6.8 percent.



The House of Representatives Bill 5, also known as College Student Relief Act of 2007, is an amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965. It reduces rates on federally subsidized Stafford loans, as well as Perkins student loans. However, the bill does not affect rates on unsubsidized loans.

There is a population of college students graduating with excessive student loan debts. The Committee of Education & Labor estimates that today's average student graduates with approximately \$18,000 in loan debt. That is over 45% higher than reports taken just eleven years ago.

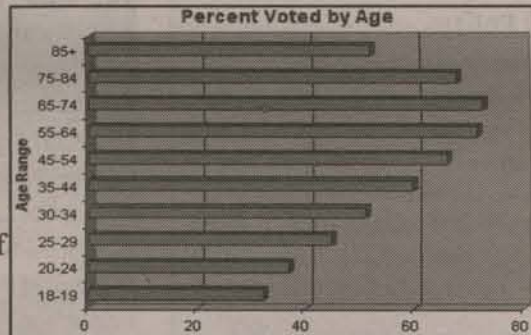
Director of Financial Aid for LSUS, Betty McCrary, says changes are temporary but they may come as a small comfort for those students dealing with payments. In a statement released to the senate, President Bush said, "Student loan debt has soared in recent years, and it is not clear that encouraging more loans is a wise course." President Bush reassured that the administration would continue to work with Congress on comprehensive approaches to improve college access for the neediest students.

## No Vote No Voice

Evan Robertson

The election for the governor and various state representative races are in sight, ballot boxes are in place – the question is where are the students? College-age voting is at an all time low. In the 2004 presi-

dential election only 27% of college students voted. Keep in mind college age students make-up 64% of the population.



## Student Candidate Jessica Clinton

The state wide races are on and LSUS student, 21 year-old Tyler Nezat is in the running for the State Senate, District 36.

An active member of the LSUS College Republicans, Nezat's first commitment is to lower taxes. Nezat said, "Lower taxes are important for our businesses to grow in state."

According to Nezat, "A great example of how our current legislature has failed the citizens of Louisiana can be seen in two votes. In 2005 individuals voted to increase the tax on hospital patients. Then, in 2006 they voted to use taxpayer's funds to help give themselves health insurance for life."

Nezat believes that his age is not a factor in the running for Senate, though he has been marked as a "kid" by different office officials.

Also running in the District 36 includes incumbent Robert Adley (D), of Benton.

For more information Tyler Nezat checkout for therecord.com district 36.

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SGA WANTS YOU!

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"The Kingdom" is almost too realistic for the silver screen



**the Almagest**

Volume 51, Issue 25

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**Editorial Policy**

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Chris Gray, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

**Letters Policy**

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

MySpace and other innovative community websites are helping students keep in touch with friends and family. Technology dominates most of our everyday lives. We have cell phones, wireless Internet and pocket PC's. In this new age of technology, we are moving the Almagest to the web as well. We now have a MySpace page that will post video editorials and reviews on popular websites such as YouTube. We hope this will encourage readership and give you, the LSUS student, a chance to see more than just black and white pages. There will be color, editorials, bulletins, comics, and much more. So look us up and have some fun. Keep reading for other sites including college newspaper on the web and the blog.

**Letter to the Editor**

I was hoping you could provide some insight to me at your earliest convenience on the subject of the Almagest. Several other students and I have noticed that the image of the old man (Ptolemy?) has disappeared from the header of the Almagest. This image appears on all the issues of the Almagest I have seen and was hoping you could let me know the reasons behind this new layout. This seemed like a culture symbol of LSUS and the sudden change without any mention in the Almagest has baffled a lot of people.

Thank you for your time,  
Matthew Baker, MCTS  
President Pro-Tempore, Student Government Association at LSUS  
Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee, SGA  
Technology Advisor to the President, SGA  
President, Biomedical Informatics Group at LSUS  
Representative, Student Organizational Council at LSUS

**Response from the Editor**

In the world of media one of the biggest elements to make sure an audience knows who you are -- this is called "Branding". The paper is under new design to brand the paper as a LSUS Publication.

Please notice other pages as well: We included the Pilot logo for sports, "Pelican Briefs" for the back page.

And I am very happy people have noticed. So have other people who say now they know where the paper is from as we have added off campus pick-up sites for the community to have access to the news of LSUS also.

So, I will pass on to the editor in chief that maybe an editorial to explain the changes and the world of media to others including marketing our school to the community and to brand our school's name to the paper.

Thanks for the question  
Chris Gray  
Editor-in-Chief



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- Desk Lamps

## Get the job first...

Leslie Rodriguez

Are you a student thinking about getting a tattoo? You might want to reconsider getting one before getting your first job. Tattoos are not considered acceptable in certain profes-

sional environments and may lessen the likelihood of getting hired. "The fact that my tattoos are not visible is just common sense, I don't want to be judged for that by a possible employer", French said.

However, some students



sional environments and may lessen the likelihood of getting hired.

"Automatically, an employer won't call you back if you have tattoos and piercings", said Casey Harvill, Assistant Director of the career center at LSUS. Harvill advises students to get tattoos only in places where they can be easily covered up.

Tattoos may not cost you every job opportunity, but they can cut those opportunities short.

Brandon French, a senior majoring in Fine Arts at LSUS, said, "I'm covered in tattoos, and nobody even knows it." Having tattoos in places where they are not visible could be the best option for people who want tattoos but don't want to hurt their chances of getting

are not worried that having visible tattoos will have major consequences on getting hired after graduating.

"By the time I enter the serious working world, it will be run by my generation, who will understand the nature of tattoos", said Jason Campisi, a sophomore majoring in General Science and engineering at LSUS.

Though students may have mixed opinions about whether tattoos will affect their job opportunities once they are out of college, perhaps best route may be to not get them at all or to get them where they can't be seen. For more information go to Vault.com, a website specialized in career information.

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**survivor cont'**

two older brothers while battling breast cancer since 2001.

My mother and my oldest brother, Ryan Reynolds, were recently honored during a pep rally by the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park -- that's right in Boston. "It was a wonderful experience to share with my 'baby' my mom said.

When she says baby she is speaking of my oldest and biggest brother Ryan who is a country music singer based in Nashville, Tennessee. This was my brother's second performance for the Red Sox but this performance was for our mom. Reynolds and the Boston Red Sox Administration came up with the idea to promote his new CD "The Sounds of Fenway", in which all the proceeds would go to Breast Cancer Research in honor of my Mother. My brother told me that it made him happy to put a smile on my mother's face just doing what he loves to do... play music.

As a family we try to support my mother as best we can, one family, one fight. When I asked my mother what her advice would be to those impacted by this disease she responded, "Early detection is the cure, do the best you can and the rest you just have to put in God's hands. I've just been very blessed by God and my family that give me such wonderful support."

During this month, it is a time to educate the public and provide fund-raising for breast cancer research to find a cure. During this month please take the time to remember those who have been impacted by this terrible disease. To my mom -- Thanks for showing me the meaning of strength.

# Vote

**College vote cont'**

Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover said those numbers are unacceptable especially in light of what LSUS has on the table. "If LSUS is to become a Tier 1 institution, LSUS students have to come out in strong numbers to vote".

## It's Revel Time Again

**TONIGHT:****Chase Stage**

6:00 p.m. Groove Agents (Pop/R&B/Funk)

8:30 p.m. Harmon Drew Super Group (60's/R&B)

**Toyota/Radio Group Depot Stage**

6:30 p.m. Red River Playboys (Cajun/Zydeco)

8:30 p.m. Cody Jinks (Country)

**FRIDAY:**

7:30 p.m. Dirtfoot (Rock)

9:30 p.m. Cowboy Mouth (Rock)

**SATURDAY:**

7:30 p.m. George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic

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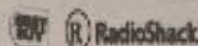
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## SGA wants You

Joe Hayes  
SGA President

Free food and drinks! Now that I've got you attention, read on to the end to find out the what, why, when and where to get free food from your SGA.

One of the problems that we run into as student representatives is that we simply don't have time between classes to talk to students about the issues that our university needs to address. One way that we're trying to get in touch with more students this semester is through SGA Day. We want students to come out onto the mall during common hour and tell us your ideas, comments, and opinions about the LSUS campus and we'll even feed you.

Some of the questions we're looking forward to hearing your thoughts on:

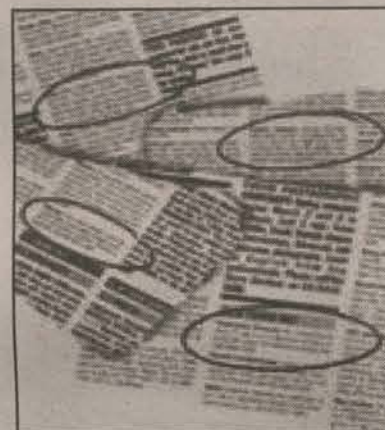
Do we really need extra parking spaces? What about that extended common hour? More classes in the afternoon? What about a 24 hour computer lab?

This is our community and our university -- if you have an issue that you think needs our attention, this is the perfect time to tell us!

I can't wait to see you guys out there. Until then, see you in class.

**Time: 10:25 Date October 9th:**

**Where: Front of the UC.**



## Ready, Set, Job!!!

Eighty-four employers are on campus today at the University Center Ballroom on today, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Casey Harvill, assistant director of the Career Center, says "the majority of students attend college to make themselves more desirable in the job mark, so the career fair will help our students make the contacts they will need in the industries they are pursuing.

It also makes them aware that they have options that they might not know about."

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**The Lady Pilots crushed Belhaven College Tuesday in "The Swamp" with the score firmly sitting at 6-0.**

**Men's Basketball: Home Games**

Opponent	Date	Time
♦Jarvis Christian	11/12/2007	7:00p.m.
♦UT at Tyler	11/24/2007	3:00p.m.
♦Texas College	11/28/2007	7:00p.m.

**Women's Basketball: Home Games**

Opponent	Date	Time
♦Jarvis Christian	11/12/2007	5:30p.m.
	11/15/2007	6:00p.m.
♦Texas A&M	12/14/2007	7:00p.m.
♦Paul Quinn	12/15/2007	4:00p.m.

**Lady Pilots decimate Bellhaven College**

by Kyle Blankenship

The LSUS Lady Pilots remained undefeated at "The Swamp" this season by defeating Belhaven College 6-0 on Tuesday afternoon.

LSUS didn't waste any time getting on the scoreboard, as Julia Vaughan found the back of the net just 21 seconds into the game. Senior Brenna Bussart added two first-half goals, while freshman Holly

Jaynes put the Lady Pilots ahead by a score of 4-0 heading into halftime.

Rachel Alexander and Kristen Schaefer each scored a goal in the second half, making the final tally 6-0.

LSUS goalkeeper Kelsi McNew picked up the win for the Lady Pilots, as they improved to 8-3 on the season. McNew recorded her third consecutive shutout in Tuesday's 6-0 victory.

The Lady Pilots will be back in action on Friday afternoon for a contest against the #17 William Carey Lady Crusaders. Kickoff is set for 3 P.M. at "The Swamp" on the LSUS campus.



**Women's Soccer Schedule**

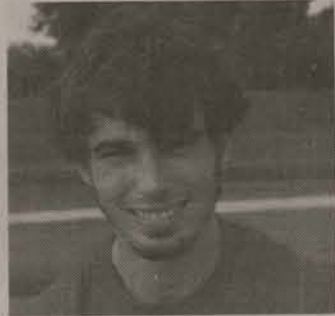
Date	Time	Opponent	Location
10/5/2007	3:00pm	William Carey College *	LSUS
10/7/2007	1:00pm	Spring Hill College *	LSUS



**Charles Crawford,**  
Junior Physics Major  
Florida: 27 NO: 24  
LSU: 35 CAR: 9



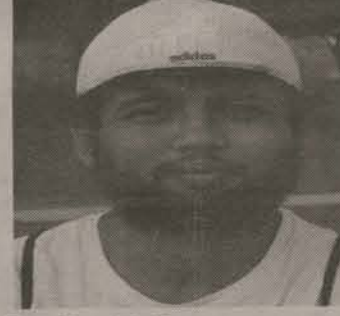
**Amanda Jewell,**  
Senior Psychology Major  
Florida: 24 NO: 14  
LSU: 35 CAR: 28



**Aaron Adams,**  
Sophomore Biology Major  
Florida: 17 NO: 27  
LSU: 21 CAR: 35



**Kacie Cryer,**  
Senior Gen. Studies Major  
Florida: 14 NO: 17  
LSU: 21 CAR: 14



**Bradley Ball,**  
Sophomore mass com. major  
Florida: 20 NO: 14  
LSU: 17 CAR: 24

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Kingdom hath come

by Chris Gray

"The Kingdom" is a high crime, thriller about a special FBI unit sent to Saudi Arabia to investigate a brutal terrorist attack on a U.S. Compound.

The films A-list cast brought more integrity and depth to the film than if unknown talent was used.

Jamie Foxx ("Ray", "Miami Vice") once again shows why he is an Oscar worthy performer. Not only was he able to play an amazing action packed role, he also brought emotion and depth to the scenes. He can pull out a gun, shoot someone and then go and cry over the body so believably well that I even got a little choked up. I see Foxx taking home another Oscar in the next few years.

Chris Cooper ("Breach", "Jarhead") gave one of his better performances in this film. Normally he plays mundane supporting characters that never really have substance. In this movie he gets his chance to shine. He

spouts dialog with such grace that you can't help but become enthralled with his character. You want to see him live.

You want to see his turmoil. You want to feel his pain and joy. Cooper really delivers high grade acting in this film.

Jason Bateman ("Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story", "Smokin' Aces") gives a sarcastic/comedic performance in this film. His characters obnoxious personality makes him endearing. Obnoxious as he is, his character was believable and genuine. He wasn't cracking jokes just to crack them and make the audience laugh. He was cracking jokes to lighten the mood of the situation in which he found himself in. This guy is a quality actor and I'm really looking forward to seeing him play more dramatic roles.



Ashraf Barhom ("Paradise Now") gave the best performance of any actor in the movie. He portrays a Saudi police officer caught in the middle of the conflict and has to help the American FBI team. Barhom's role was prolific. The combination of his emotions, body language, and the way he spoke his lines was amazing. His character is developed more than any other, and you begin to root for him. You want him to catch the bad guys, and when you see his struggles, you become a little misty eyed. I see Oscar gold in his future.

that he shed light too nearly ten years prior. The Shade of Poison Trees is Dashboard Confessional's, aka Carrabba, newest album on the scene with plenty of jam packed, emotional styled lyrics that make a person's soul melt with every word.

"Where There's Gold" is basically an acoustic version of Kanye West's "Golddigger," making references to girls that keep going for the "gold." It's not as catchy as other songs from previous albums, but still a good acoustic jam to listen to with your sleeves rolled high.

Their 1st single, "Thick as Thieves," gives a good insight to a heartfelt relationship kept secret amongst friends, while "Bones" refers to the faith put into his body and mind through his upbeat vocals and cinematic lyrics. These songs are very reminiscent of Carrabba's older work.

Other songs on the album range from "Little Bombs," a slight anti-Bush innuendo, and "Matters of Blood and Connection," a self loathing, and unforgettable track.

"Clean Breaks," is a classic Dashboard heartbreak

## Weekly Music Line-Up

WHEN: October 4th @ 9PM	WHERE: Mia's Pub	BANDS: Porcelain Arms, Junius
October 5th @ 7pm	The H&H Lounge	Afflicted, After- Burn, Tyrants of Steel
October 6th @ 8pm	516 Soundstage	Cancer Whore, Coathanger Abortion
October 10th @ 9pm	The Jackrabbit Lounge	Armazilla
October 11th @ 8pm	Mia's Pub	The Josh Hollis Band

Peter Berg who is known mainly for his roles in films like ("Smokin' Aces", "Corky Romano") took the helm on this film and he made it spectacular. Not only did he use diverse camera angles and cinematography, he brought the best out of each actor in the film. Every performance, in every scene, was amazing. Berg needs to step up more often and make more quality cinema for people to see.

"The Kingdom" is a thriller but acts as a social commentary as well. It is a must see for anyone who enjoys movies.

## Shreveport Opera Xpress to Perform at LSUS

The Shreveport Opera Xpress will present a mini-concert at LSUS in Bronson Hall, Room 110 is today, Thursday, October 4, 2007 from 10:35 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

The concert will feature excerpts from Stephen Sondheim's Broadway musical, Sweeney Todd, which will be presented in its entirety by the Shreveport Opera on October 27, 2007. The program is free and open to the public.



**The Shade of Poison Trees**  
Dashboard Confessional

by Derick Jones

When Chris Carrabba decided in 1999 to form Dashboard Confessional, who knew that five albums later he'd still be cranking out the same heart-wrenching lyrics

song. With lyrics of "old knots, each move keeps me locked away," explain the "new embrace" of being "tied up more tightly into you." Carrabba conveys a new take on the evolved Dashboard, with subtle hints of faltering relationships and the narrator's realization of how much his lover means to him.

Their title track, the key-stone to the album, is "Shade of Poison Trees." With key Carrabba elements of terk jerking vocals, memorable lines, and ghostly assaults to our emotions, this song is

soon to be on the charts as number 1 as well. Carrabba has stated that he was "14 tracks into what would be the sixth studio album." So Dashboard fans, be prepared to expect more, especially with their tour now in progress. Stops close to home include Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

Fore more information on Dashboard Confessional's new album and tour dates, please visit [www.dashboard-confessional.com](http://www.dashboard-confessional.com).







# Pelican Briefs

## Follow Fola

by Fola Hammones

Hey Pilot's! For the past few weeks I have written about my Challenge to lose weight. It's been going well but I still have miles and miles to go. It's your turn to talk the talk and walk the walk. October is National Walking Month and it's time to start your path to a healthy lifestyle.

So get out your shoes and sweats; get going. One place to start walking is the HPE building (open 8-9 M-TH, 8-6 F, 8-4 Sat). Ask your friends and family to take a nice walk when the sun goes down. If you are a morning person take a walk/run before school. Just take these small steps to get your heart going.

## Mascot Fever

by Justin Tyson

Hey students, interested in grabbing a piece of the lime-light here at LSUS? Be the first person in line to sign-up for tryouts to become our school's new face behind our new Pelican mascot. The try-outs is open to all currently enrolled LSUS students who want to lead our school into a new age of school spirit and pride.

Stay tuned for times, dates and places to show your Pelican spirit. If you are interested in trying out or would just like some more information visit the UC Office at 797-5393.

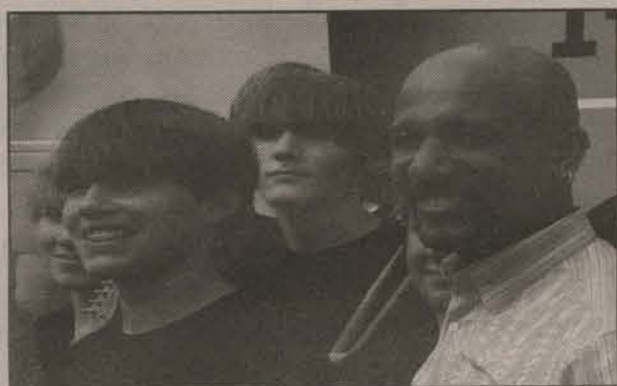


Photo by Fola Hammones

*"These people can go out today and sign up for the program to ensure prescription help and some health coverage"*

Montel Williams and "Help is Here Express" bus tour stopped by Tuesday September 25. The crowds of older people were out to stand in line to speak with representatives of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance.

Montel Williams is a talk show host and a surviving man stricken with Multiple Sclerosis. When asked him, "How do you feel PPA can benefit student with out prescription help?" "PAP can help students and young people that are not legally under their parents.

These people can go out today and sign up for the program to ensure prescription help and some health coverage"

## SAB Schedule

CoffeeHouse presents:  
**Javier Mendoza &  
Diversity Day**  
10/2 @10:30a.m.  
UC Port Stage

**Movie Night:**  
*Dream Girls*  
10/4 @ dark  
UC Mall

CoffeeHouse presents:  
**Tim Mahoney**  
10/23 @ 10:30a.m.  
UC Port Stage

**Movie Night:**  
*The Invisible*  
10/23 @ dark  
UC Mall

**Freaky Fall Fest**  
**comedian, Pete Holmes**  
10/24 @ 7:00p.m.  
UC Theater

**Ghost Hunter,**  
**Chris Moon**  
10/25 @ 7:00p.m.  
UC Theater

**Freaky Fall Fest '07**  
10/25 & 10/26 @  
10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.  
UC Theater

**Midnight Madness**  
**"Hoop'n it up"**  
10/26 @10:00p.m.  
HPE Gym

**Movie night:**  
*Ratatouilli*  
11/3 @6:00p.m.  
UC Theater

**Movie night:**  
*Freedom Writers*  
11/8 @7:00p.m.  
UC Theater

## Ask your Co-Pilot

**Q:** Does the "saggy pants" law apply to LSUS students as well?

Dear Saggy Pants,

This law applies to everyone in Shreveport. If you've got low rising pants that show a hint of skin or undergarments, and a police officer happens to see you wearing them in that fashion, they now have the right to fine and possibly arrest you.

Now of course, in my Co-Pilot opinion, this is constitutionally wrong. We've been jilted with our freedom of what to wear. That just seems slightly ignorant, but this is Louisiana we're talking about. Though other states still haven't picked up on the ban yet, Louisiana is paving the way.

Delcumbre, the first city in Louisiana to receive this ban, has set wildfire to the rest of the state having other cities pick up the slack as well, including Natchitoches, Alexandria, and of course, Shreveport.

But who is to say that the sagging pants law is okay or not? Of course it's an outdated fashion no-no from the 90s, but why is anyone putting control over what we wear? Are we attempting to turn into a unified nation with Tahoe's and Condos, and our fingers pointed to the sinners? America needs

to fight this.

With fines of up to \$250 dollars (and that only applies to the city of Shreveport), who wants to chance loosing that much money over a simple pant-pull up? Not me, and a lot of other's would agree with that. Since this ordinance has been passed a simple shape up of Shreveport especially in some of the more sketchy areas that are still seen by the public eye, has been cleaned up. Men with pants that happen to fall below their knees are now being seen with belts, and actually have a reason to pull them up.

In Mansfield, fines can be up to \$150 dollars, and a possibility of up to 15 days in jail. Good grief, all over a flash of some boxers. According to the law that was passed, it makes it illegal to found in a "state of nudity, or partial nudity, or in any indecent exposure of his or her person or undergarments, or be guilty of any indecent or lewd behavior."

So Saggy Pants, I hope this helps you in your ways, and maybe will guide you to either pull up your pants or sag them lower, just do what's right for you in the never ending saga of sagging.

**Your questions count! E-mail the Co-Pilot at [almagest@lsus.edu](mailto:almagest@lsus.edu) with questions, comments, and anything you'd like to hear answered! Your opinions matter!**